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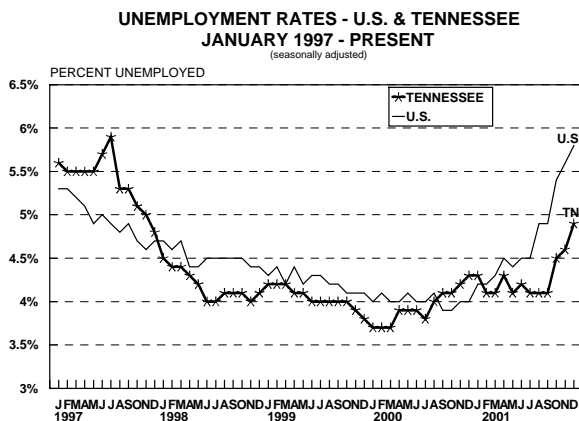
NASHVILLE—The state’s unemployment rate for the month of December is 4.9 percent, up three-tenths of a percentage point over the month, Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development Michael E. Magill announced today. Tennessee’s rate continues to remain below the U.S. rate, which increased to 5.8 percent.

“During the month of December, our state experienced mostly seasonal trends,” Magill stated. “Construction, state education, and tourism-related industries experienced declines, while retail trade increased with the height of the holiday season.”

“Tennessee continues to experience shifts and adjustments in the economy, mirroring trends at the national level,” Magill added.

Over-the-month figures showed the retail trade industry adding 6,700 jobs, with 2,200 of those in apparel/accessory stores and 1,800 of those in miscellaneous retail. Both personal services and local education grew by 700. State education decreased by 1,300, amusement/recreation lost 1,000 and construction declined by 700.

From December 2000 to December 2001, the services industry increased by 14,900, trade grew by 7,200 and transportation added 2,000 jobs. Manufacturing continued to experience decreases, losing 23,800 jobs over the year.



LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES SUMMARY - TENNESSEE

December 2001 (preliminary) - BM2000

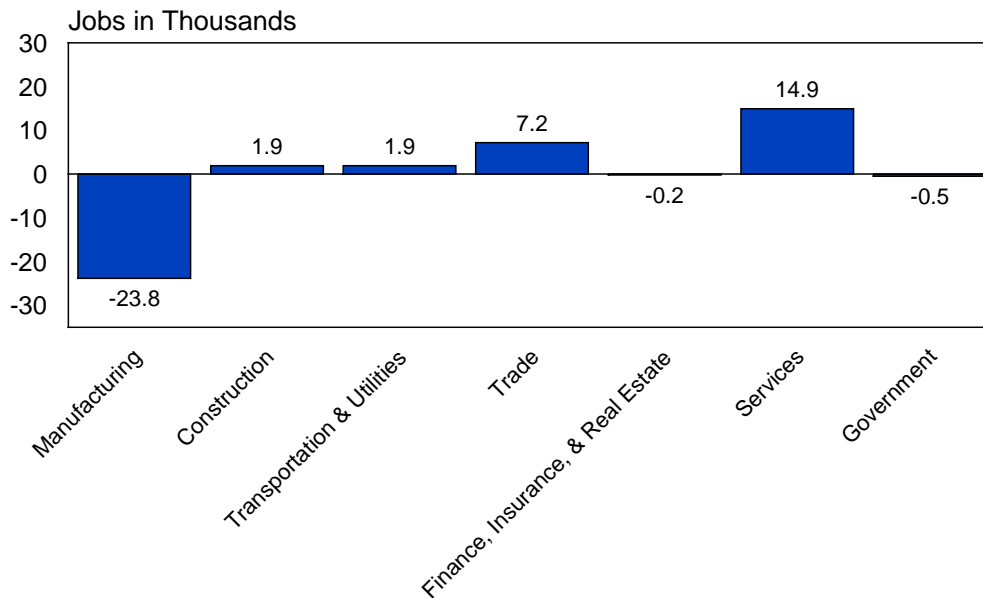
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate		Rate Change
				Dec.	Nov.	
UNITED STATES	142,314,000	134,055,000	8,259,000	5.8 %	5.6 %	0.2 %
TENNESSEE	2,884,800	2,742,300	142,500	4.9	4.6	0.3

Not Seasonally Adjusted

UNITED STATES	141,913,000	134,235,000	7,678,000	5.4 %	5.3 %	0.1 %
TENNESSEE	2,879,500	2,750,700	128,800	4.5	4.6	-0.1

OVER THE YEAR JOB GROWTH

By Major Industry (December 2000-2001)



County and MSA rates will be released on Thursday, January 24, 2002.

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NOTE: Information will be available on the Internet; enter "http://www.state.tn.us/labor-wfd/labor_figures." Sound may be obtained from the Governor's NewsLine at 1-800-342-1483 or Nashville area 741-4877.

NOTE: Tennessee's employment and unemployment statistics are based on two major surveys. The Current Population Survey (CPS) is a survey by place of residence providing estimates on the number of people in the labor force, total employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate. Beginning in January 1992, the CPS data are seasonally adjusted for all states as directed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The business survey collects data by place of work and creates information about jobs in various industries. The business survey data are non-seasonally adjusted at this time.

The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development is an equal opportunity employer. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

El Departamento del Trabajo y de la Fuerza Laboral es un organismo empresarial que aplica la igualdad de oportunidades. Los Servicios y ayudas auxiliares están disponibles para los individuos con impedimentos si los solicitan.